



**RESIDENT COMMISSIONER EVIDENT ON PROGRESS
OF REVITALIZATION PLAN FOR RÍO PIEDRAS
*Tuesday, April 7, 2009***

RIO PIEDRAS. P.R.- Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner, Pedro Pierluisi, walked alongside the mayor of the Capital City, Jorge Santini Padilla for the construction and remodeling of the *Plaza Convalecencia* of Rio Piedras, the first great work of the first phase of the Revitalization and Repopulation Program 'Rio 2012', aimed to transform the urban center of Rio Piedras.

"Today our Resident Commissioner can see the progress of the 'Proyecto Río 2012,' which may qualify for the allocation of federal funds," said San Juan Mayor Jorge Santini Padilla.

Some of the federal programs that the city could ask for are: *Transportation Quality Program*, to encourage the use of collective transportation, such as the *Tren Urbano*, as well as for the HOME program for social interest projects.

"In less than a year, Mayor Santini has already achieved 60% completion of this project. The historic aspect of Río Piedras is maintained; while it offers a new vibe that will guarantee without a doubt the revitalization of the urban town. San Juan can count on me from Washington to cooperate with the achievements of this plan," the Resident Commissioner said.

According to the Mayor, the improvements to the Plaza include the main area of the plaza and the underground parking lot, at a cost of \$14 million, which will return the use of nearly 700 parking spaces that were in precarious conditions to the visitors of Rio Piedras.

"When the renovation is completed, the Plaza will have green areas and will become environmentally friendly. All the changes and improvements are looking to return the splendor to Río Piedras and promote urban living. It will be a wonderful transformation of a community where one lives, works, studies and participates in

recreational activities,” Santini said.

<http://pierluisi.house.gov>